[149 cont.]

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[787]

Concerning the behavior of the sorcerer on other occasions, cf. Dillon, p. 303, where a "priest" on board the ship sings, shouts, and laughs in a state of convulsions and apparently talks with a spirit.

789 The second duty of the sorcerer, likewise worldwide, is that of weather-maker. On journeys by boat, the meduka of Santa Cruz takes his duka post with him and sets it up in the small hut of the platform. A bird-figure painted red, white, [778] and black is also taken on board for protection against bad weather. On land charred [150] wood is sometimes laid in hollow trees to make the sun shine. Other meduka can cause a drought by not washing and not working so that they will not perspire, for their duka has power over the sun and the rain. If one brings such a meduka money and food and he grants the request, he goes into the spirit house and sprinkles water over the duka post or posts there in order to make it rain again. In order to stir up the wind, the sorcerer swings a twig of the tree [778] imbued with the malete concerned. Each kind of sorcery has a [533] certain magical song that goes with it (1).

1. Codrington, p. 201. O'Ferrall, p. 225. Edge-Partington, I, 163, No. 8 (bird-figure as boat's amulet). [113] Foy, Arch. f. Religionswiss., X, p. 513, regards the rain-makers as representatives of the god of heaven.

789 Although there is no definite evidence, it is undoubtedly 241 the case that the meduka takes part in the ceremonies that are supposed to promote the growth of the various food plants and in the harvest festivals, in other words, in the vegetation magic. The first takes place on Ndeni in the bush at a place for festivities when the plots have been cleared and the plants started. Besides the necessary food, feather money and tapa [282] are displayed, or rather "sacrificed."